Volume 4, Issue 1 Winter 2009



315 East Leland Road, Pittsburg 94565 Antioch * Bay Point * Bethel Island * Oakley * Pittsburg

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Facing the loss of your home or related eviction because of foreclosure?

Contact the members of the Contra Costa County Home Equity Preservation Alliance (HEPA) at 510-412-9290 or click on http://ccreach.org/ccc_housing/HEPA%20 Brochure%2012-2008pdf.pdf

Inauguration thoughts	1
New courthouse groundbreaking	5
Crash course for lawmakers	6
Crab feed	7
10 years of Industrial Safety	8
Online restaurant form	.9
Community events	10
Government meetings	11
Contact us	13
More information and links	13

Voters give Federal Glover a third term



SUPERVISOR FEDERAL D. GLOVER won reelection as the District V Supervisor last Nov. 4 over challenger Gary Agopian. The final tally was 34,421 votes, or 52.04%, cast for Glover and 31,496, or 47.62% for Agopian. Above, some of the supervisor's supporters watched a television monitor as they waited for the election results in a victory party at the Pittsburg Senior Center.

FROM SUPERVISOR GLOVER

Tears on a cold and glorious day in January

By Federal Glover

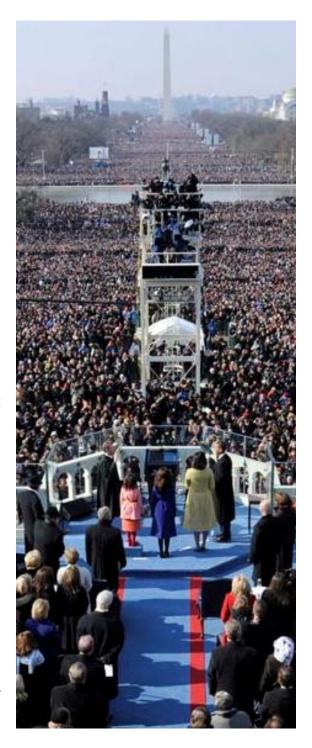
It didn't matter that I bundled up as best I could with long johns, sweater and a thick wool overcoat on top of another coat, earmuffs and a wool cap with earflaps, the frigid 20 degree cold still seeped through. Growing up in California, I cannot get used to the winter weather of Washington D.C.

On top of it all, I was losing body heat because of the tears streaming down my face. Witnessing the inauguration of the country's first African American president caused waves of emotions to sweep over me.

Barack Obama was a speck in the distance but I had a better view than most even though I was one of those unfortunate visitors who had purple tickets and who were turned away because I was unable to get through the mass of humanity in front of me.

I never cried so much in my life or so openly in front of strangers. The tears were for all the people who had made sacrifices to get where are as a nation last Jan. 20. President Obama is the fruition of the struggles of thousands of my elders.

Some of names are well known, such as Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks and Martin



The crowd at the inauguration of President Barack Obama was estimated at 2 million and stretched from the White House to beyond the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial.



Supervisor Glover thanked his supporters during his victory party last Nov. 4. Contra Costa voters turned out in record numbers to vote for president, state and local officials in the historic election when Barack Obama was chosen to become the first African American President of the **United States.**

Luther King, whose memory we celebrated the day before the inauguration. But I think also about the thousands who in the 1950s and 1960s joined the fight for equality when doing so put their lives at real risk and whose names will not be entered in history books, those who braved high-pressure fire hoses, police batons and snarling dogs and those who died at the end of rope, so this day could happen.

I thought of the three college students, two of them white, who were murdered for their work registering Black voters in the south, Martin Luther King's dream, Brown v. Board of Education, the bombings and lynchings in the South and flaming crosses in the middle of the night and three little girls who were killed in a church bombing.

I thought also of my working class parents who raised me in Pittsburg and

were able to send me to college; Taylor Davis, one of the few African American city council members and who mentored me in my political career; and Herb White, who was the first black council member in town. There are dozens more: including the pastors, grandparents, teachers, other community leaders and nameless others who watched out for the African American community and its children.

I remember as a junior high student watching from across the street, the black students at Pittsburg High who out of rage over King's assassination protested the only way they knew how in 1968, hoping that their anger was heard by the community.

I thought of Medgar Evers, who in 1963 was assassinated in front of his house in



The new First Family will present a new image of America to the world.

Mississippi because of his work in the Civil Rights Movement. After his death, his family moved to Pittsburg, where some of his relatives still live.

I remember too, getting elected as student body president by a largely nonblack student body. Serving with me was my best friend Joe Canciamilla, a white man I call "my brother."

The road to this audacious moment was long and stained with blood. It is a day many of us thought would not happen in our lifetimes.

The feeling of hope generated by Obama's candidacy, were best expressed in the faces of young African American kids around me as they looked up at the podium to see their newest role model. I noticed I was not the only one crying tears of pure joy.

I was sharing this day with strangers but this exhilaration was a common bond that will forever link us with one another

I think of my own granddaughters, who like Obama's daughters, will grow up without the yoke of victimhood and the heavy history that sometimes weigh down some African Americans and keep them from achieving their dreams.

Those children can dare to dream of becoming President of the United States, can dare to believe in the continuously evolving promise of America, and can dare to state that our nation has moved closer to King's dream of a society where they will be judged by the content of their character, not by the color of their skin.

.

Because I was in Washington D.C., I couldn't be in East County on Martin Luther King Day but I heard reports from my staff that the successful observances in Pittsburg and Antioch were glimpses of what we can become. Good people of every race and ethnicity were at the Creative Arts Building and El Campanile on Jan. 19 were hungry and eager to be part of a positive statement about who we are and who we want to become as a people and as a society.

Jan. 20 -- one glorious day -- will not cast off the weight of slavery or overturn its legacy of bigotry and poverty. Nor does it mark the end of overt hate and racism. The next generation of African Americans will

continue to suffer the slights and injuries of discrimination.

But Obama's swearing in shows even the cynics among us that we have traveled far to reach this defining moment in our journey. With our new President, the barriers look less insurmountable. The evils, we can now say with certainty, now have an opposing force.

Yes, it will take us some more time, but I am confident that together, all of us as Americans, will eventually get there. And when we do, we'll shed more tears together.

For additional stories on the inauguration, click here.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

New courthouse for East County breaks ground

East County residents will have a new courthouse to help improve their interaction with the judicial system. Groundbreaking ceremonies attended by the California Supreme Court Justice Ronald M. George took place in December under a big white tent placed atop the new courthouse location on the corner of Railroad Avenue and Power Avenue in Pittsburg.

Supervisor Glover, who spoke to the hundreds of guests, noted that the idea of a

new courthouse began when he was a member of the Pittsburg City Council.

The growth of cases involving East County residents had outgrown the 1950's era courthouse which is just north of the new site.

The new facility will house seven courtrooms compared to the five in the old courthouse. One of the old courtrooms was a former storeroom that had been converted when the demand outstripped the older building.



Supervisor Federal Glover welcomed those who attended the groundbreaking of the new courthouse for East County.

Construction of the new superior court begins early next year and would be completed in 2010. It will be three times larger than the old facility. The cost of construction of the \$47 million courthouse will be borne by the state.

City officials believe the presence of hundreds of courthouse workers, attorneys. jurors and other legal staff will enhance their civic center, which plans to build a six-story office tower across the street from the new courthouse.



Assembly members Joan Buchanan, right, and Nancy Skinner.

Crash course on county issues for new legislators

MARTINEZ -- County staff and Supervisor Glover held a welcome reception in December for the new California Assembly members representing portions of Contra Costa County.

Assembly members Joan Buchanan (D, 15th District)

and Nancy Skinner (D, 14th District) attended the gathering in Martinez after getting the majority of votes versus their respective Republican opponents in the Nov. 4 elections.

After a welcome from BOS Chair Glover, County Administrator David Twa and department heads briefed the two novice lawmakers on some of the issues facing the county, including the financial strait jacket the county is in because of the failure of arriving at a state budget. As a result of the state's delay, the county faces cuts in services and layoffs for hundreds of employees.

The assembly members also told the supervisor and county staff of their own priorities, not the least of which is passing a state budget while hiring staff for their offices and getting acquainted with the Assembly.

Crackin' good time at the crab feed





Supervisor Glover's Annual Crab Feed last Jan. 3 drew about 500 supporters who enjoyed pasta, sausage and entertainment besides the garlic-marinated crustaceans at the East County Boys and Girls Club in Pittsburg.

SERVING THE PUBLIC

Industrial Safety Ordinance marks decade of safety

Six Contra Costa refineries and chemical plants are much safer for their workers and the community thanks to a county law put into place 10 years ago.

According to a report recently released by Contra Costa Health Services' Hazardous Materials Programs, 2008 was the first year in which there were no major chemical accidents or releases at facilities covered by the county's Industrial Safety Ordinance.

The Board of Supervisors accepted the

report during its meeting on Dec. 16.

"There has been a change in the way facilities are doing business. The ordinance has really had an impact on the number

and severity of incidents," said Randy Sawyer, Director of Hazardous Materials Programs.

Passed into law by the Board of Supervisors in 1998, the ordinance requires six refineries and chemical plants in unincorporated Contra Costa to install safer systems, investigate the root causes of incidents and identify human factors. Contra Costa has more hazardous materials per capita than any other county in the state. As a result, its Industrial Safety Ordinance is also the strictest. Refining Company; General Chemical West in Bay Point; ConocoPhillips Rodeo Refinery; and Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery near Martinez.

Although there was an incident at a facility in May 2008, it was at a facility not covered by the county's ordinance. Among the highlights of the report is increased cooperation by facilities, said Cho Nai Cheung, Accidental Release Prevention Programs Engineer Supervisor.

"At first, plants thought it would slow down business," Cheung said. "But they found out it has been safer and better for business."

The Hazardous Materials division

performs in-depth inspections at each site every three years. It also performs unannounced inspections at each site every other year to see how facilities are doing, Sawyer said.

"The ordinance keeps safety as a top priority and allows us to monitor the safety efforts of the facilities," Sawyer said. "Safety has improved and it shows a lot of effort by the Board, the community, facilities and my staff."

The six sites covered by the ordinance are: Air Products at the Shell Oil Products US Martinez Refinery; Air Products at the Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery; Shell Martinez

For more information about the county's Industrial Safety Ordinance or to view a list of major chemical accidents and releases, visit cchealth.org/groups/hazmat/

Food facility application process streamlined online

People applying to open restaurants and other food facilities in Contra Costa can now check the status of their applications online thanks to a new service offered by Contra Costa Health Services' Environmental Health Division.

Contra Costa Health Services
(CCHS) is the first county
health department in California
to offer an environmental
health "Plan Check Status"
database on its website
(www.cchealth.org). CCHS'
Environmental Health Division
oversees inspection of food
facilities in Contra Costa and reviews
about 400 plans annually. The database is
part of ongoing efforts to improve services
for applicants, said Environmental Health
Director Sherman Quinlan.

"The searchable database allows users to check online whether a plan has been approved, rejected or is still under review. It also shows which plan reviewer is assigned to a particular project," Quinlan said. "As a result, applicants can find out the status of their plans more quickly and conveniently. This helps us operate more efficiently because we spend a lot less time answering telephone requests for that same information."

Since the new service launched last month, the Plan Check Status search has been used more than 230 times, resulting in approximately 50 percent fewer telephone



calls about the status of plans. The Environmental Health section of the CCHS website has already received 60,349 visits so far this year and the new service is likely to generate even more traffic.

"There is a huge demand for online services and we are very pleased to be able to offer this service as well as additional information online, such as required forms, guidelines and other resources," Quinlan said

Also available online is a database to look up individual restaurant inspection results, information on Environmental Health programs for safe food and safe water for drinking and recreation, and newly updated frequently asked questions. For more information on the new Plan Check Status, visit: www.cchealth.org or call 925-692-2512.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Feb. 2, 9 a.m. – noon State of the Safety Net Hearings

Los Medanos College, Library East Leland Road, Pittsburg

Feb. 7, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Antioch Neighborhood Cleanup

Meet at West Park, 2000 Prewett Ranch Drive.

Feb. 11, 10 a.m. to noon Test Toys For Lead

Monument Community Partnership, 1760 Clayton Road, Concord

Feb. 16
Presidents' Day, Government offices closed

Feb. 25 Grant Writing Seminar

Los Medanos College East Leland Road, Pittsburg Free. To register, call 925-427-8138

April 25, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Los Medanos College East Leland Road, Pittsburg Free. Info: 925-427-8138

Annual Youth Summit



A workshop at last year's Youth Summit held at Freedom High School in Oakley.

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

ANTIOCH

Antioch Unified School District: 7 p.m., second and fourth Wednesdays, district offices, 510 G St. 706-4100.

Antioch Area Public Facilities Financing Agency (Mello-Roos

Board of Supervisors meetings

9:30 a.m., First four Tuesdays of each month 651 Pine Street, 1st Floor, Martinez

View Agenda here

http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/index.asp?nid=2225

District): 7 p.m., Antioch Unified School District boardroom, 510 G Street. 776-2030. Meets every other month, first Monday. Call to confirm meeting date.

City Council: 7 p.m., second and fourth Tuesdays, City Hall, Third and H streets. Parks and Recreation Commission: 7 p.m., second Thursday, City Hall, Third and H streets. 779-7070, Ext. 0.

BAY POINT

Municipal Advisory Council: 7 p.m., first Tuesday, Ambrose Community Center, 3105 Willow Pass Road. 458-1601.

Ambrose Park and Recreation District, 7 p.m., second Thursday, Ambrose Center: 3105 Willow Pass Road, Bay Point. 925-458-2457

BETHEL ISLAND

Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District, 3 p.m., third Thursday, 3085 Stone Road, Bethel Island.

Municipal Advisory Council, 7 p.m. second Tuesday, BIMID office, 3085 Stone Road.

OAKLEY

City Council: 7:30 p.m., second and fourth Tuesdays, 3231 Main St., Oakley. 625-7000.

Liberty Union High School District, 7:30 p.m., second and fourth Wednesdays, District Offices, 20 Oak St., Brentwood. 634-2166

Oakley Unified School District, 7 p.m., third Wednesday, District offices, 91 Mercedes Lane, Oakley, 925-625-0700

Ironhouse Sanitary District: 7:30 p.m., first Tuesday, district offices, 450 Walnut Meadows Drive, Oakley. 625-2279.

Planning Commission: 7:30 p.m., first and third Mondays, 3231 Main St. Oakley. 625-7000.

PITTSBURG

City Council: 7 p.m., first and third Mondays, council chamber, third floor, City Hall, 65 Civic Ave, 925-252-4850.

Planning Commission: 7 p.m., second and fourth Tuesdays, City Hall, 65 Civic Ave. 252-4920.

Pittsburg Unified School District, 7:30 p.m., second and fourth Wednesdays, 2000 Railroad Ave.



COUNTY & REGIONAL

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors: 9 a.m., first four Tuesdays, Room 107, County Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez. 646-2371.

Delta Diablo Sanitation District: 5:30 p.m., second Wednesday, district offices, 2500 Pittsburg-Antioch Highway, Antioch, 778-4040.

Contra Costa County Local Agency Formation Commission: 1:30 p.m., second Wednesday, room 107, County Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez. 646-4090.

State Route 4 Bypass Authority: second Thursday, Tri Delta Transit building, 801 Wilbur Ave., Antioch. Call for starting time. 925-686-0619.

East County Transportation Improvement: second Thursday, second Thursday, 801 Wilbur Ave., Antioch. Call for starting time. 925-686-0619.

East Contra Costa Fee & Financing Authority: second Thursday, Tri Delta Transit building, 801 Wilbur Ave., Antioch. Call for starting time. 925-686-0619.

Transplan: 6:30 p.m. second Thursday, Tri Delta Transit building, 801 Wilbur Ave., Antioch. 925-335-1201.

CONTACT THE SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE



Supervisor Federal Glover, District 5

315 East Leland Road, Pittsburg, CA 94565 925-427-8138

Website: http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/dis5/dist5@bos.cccounty.us

David Fraser, Chief of Staff dfras@bos.cccounty.us

Ed Diokno, Public Policy Analyst ediok@bos.cccounty.us

Paul Adler, Administrative Analyst padle@bos.cccounty.us

Lynn Reichard, Administrative Assistant lreic@bos.cccounty.us

Tonya Smith, Assistant tsmith@bos.cccounty.us

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please click here, provide necessary information and send.

http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/dis5/contact.htm

Check out all press releases, news stories, editorials, videos and all the latest events including his letter to Gov. Schwarzenegger on behalf of teachers and school classified staff at Supervisor Glover's county website: http://www.co.contra-

costa.ca.us/depart/dis5/